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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

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Overall orientation

8.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from the following General Assembly resolutions: resolution 55/279, by which the Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001; resolution 56/227, whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report of 23 November 2001 (A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2); resolution 65/280, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul in May 2011; resolution 58/201, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Almaty Declaration, adopted by the International Ministerial Conference, held in Almaty in August 2003; resolution 63/2, whereby the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, held in New York in October 2008; and resolution 59/311, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis in January 2005.

8.2 The mandate of the programme covers four main elements:

(a) Mobilization and coordination of international support and resources for the effective implementation of: (i) the Istanbul Programme of Action; (ii) the outcome of the 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action; and (iii) the Mauritius Strategy;

(b) Enhanced monitoring and follow-up to the three programmes of action;

(c) Awareness-raising and advocacy with respect to the three groups of countries (least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) and their respective programmes of action;

(d) Reporting on the implementation of the programmes of action as effective tools for reaching the international development goals of the countries concerned.

8.3 The programme will also contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements. It will mobilize international support in favour of its three groups of constituencies in the areas of capacity-building and increased technical and financial resources in promoting sustained growth and sustainable development.

Gender is an important dimension in the implementation of the three programmes of action.

8.4 The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.

8.5 With a view to addressing the objectives in each of the three main areas of endeavour, the Office of the High Representative will use a combination of the following approaches and strategies:

(a) Raising awareness and advocating that the concerns of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States be placed high on the global development cooperation agenda, to maintain the focus on their special needs and ensure that global economic governance, coherence and solidarity are brought to bear on the problems and challenges relating to these three groups of vulnerable countries;

(b) Mobilizing international support and resources in favour of the three groups of countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of economically, socially and environmentally sustained and sustainable development;

(c) Monitoring and follow-up to foster supportive policies in groups of countries in special situations and their development partners in accordance with their respective programmes of action and other internationally agreed development goals;

(d) Working with the United Nations system and other international organizations, including regional organizations, the donor community and civil society, to ensure the mainstreaming of priorities identified in each of the three programmes of action;

(e) Supporting the effective participation of the least developed countries in intergovernmental processes, including through the articulation of their needs, concerns and interests, and continuing to make the case that these three groups of countries deserve special consideration and treatment in order to overcome their vulnerabilities;

(f) Building partnerships towards the implementation at the national, subregional, regional and global levels of the three programmes of action by establishing coordinating mechanisms. Regional and subregional organizations can play an important role in supporting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the following areas: fostering and strengthening intercountry cooperation arrangements for the exchange of experience and technical cooperation among the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as with other developing and developed countries in the region; promoting cooperation or integration to improve transit transport and infrastructure development, facilitate the movement of people, goods and services, strengthen the development of multimodal transport and logistics services, including transit facilities, and enable active participation in the process of globalization; and building the capacities of countries to mainstream the programmes of action into their national development strategies

and to collect and analyse data for monitoring the implementation of the programmes of action;

(g) Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of specific actions and initiatives with the aim of establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(h) Promoting South-South cooperation in various areas for the benefit of the countries of the three groups;

(i) Reaching out to all stakeholders, including by establishing partnerships with civil society and the private sector, to enhance support for the three groups of countries;

(j) Maximizing synergies among the three subprogrammes, given the common problems and challenges of the countries in the three groups, including their structural weaknesses, their vulnerability to external shocks, the smallness of their economies, their marginal position in the world economy and their geographical disadvantages.

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable the least developed countries to reduce their vulnerabilities and build resilience to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, including graduation from the list of least developed countries, and mobilize international support for their sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened partnership between the least developed countries and development partners	(a) (i) Increased number of development partners fulfilling their official development assistance commitments to the least developed countries
	(ii) Increased number of trading partners of the least developed countries implementing duty-free and quota-free market access
(b) Timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action	(b) (i) Increased number of the least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation
	(ii) Increased number of the least developed countries mainstreaming provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into their national development strategies

		(iii) Increased number of the least developed countries involving relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society and the private sector, in the implementation and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action
(c) Enhanced coordination among the entities of the United Nations system and other international and multilateral organizations to ensure integrated follow-up and support for the least developed countries	(c)	(i) Increased number of entities of the United Nations system and other international and multilateral organizations that provide support to the least developed countries and report on their activities
		(ii) Increased number of joint activities that have a direct and positive impact on the least developed countries, including task forces, workshops, seminars, panels, briefings and publications

Strategy

8.6 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy for the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Raising awareness about the special needs of the least developed countries and advocating in favour of their special treatment, including through the integration of the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into national development and cooperation frameworks by the least developed countries and development partners;

(b) Mobilizing international support and resources in support of the development objectives of least developed countries, including through South-South cooperation;

(c) Strengthening United Nations system coordination and coherence and building partnerships in support of the development objectives of the least developed countries at the national, regional and global level, including with the Bretton Woods institutions and other international and subregional organizations;

(d) Monitoring the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national, regional and global level and coordinating the implementation of specific actions and initiatives aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities of least developed countries, with a view to conducting a meaningful midterm review;

(e) Building the capacity of the least developed countries at the national and regional level for the effective mainstreaming of and reporting on the implementation of their development strategies and policies addressing the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country level;

(f) Undertaking outreach and capacity-building activities aimed at all relevant stakeholders in the process to enable the exchange of experiences and the

full integration of stakeholders in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

(g) Establishing partnerships, including with parliaments, civil society organizations, foundations, the media, academia and the private sector, in support of the least developed countries;

(h) Facilitating the effective participation of the least developed countries in the decision-making of various intergovernmental bodies, which will contribute towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable landlocked developing countries increase their participation in the global trading system and move closer to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by effectively addressing challenges caused by their geographical disadvantage and successfully organizing the 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress towards establishing efficient transit transport systems and reducing trade transaction costs	(a) Increased number of specific initiatives, such as the standardization and simplification of procedures for border crossing and the formulation and amendment of transit traffic agreements, taken by landlocked and transit developing countries
(b) Successful preparation and organization of the 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action through better inter-agency collaboration and partnerships	(b) (i) Increased number of joint initiatives undertaken by the United Nations system and international organizations that have a direct and positive impact on landlocked developing countries, including substantive, technical and financial assistance (ii) Adoption of an action-oriented programme of action, an action-oriented declaration and action-oriented resolutions to assist landlocked developing countries to effectively participate in the global trading system

Strategy

8.7 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy for the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Raising awareness and advocating and mobilizing international support, including financial and technical resources, for the comprehensive 10-year review

of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and implementation of the outcome of the review;

(b) Supporting the building of partnerships for the implementation of the new programme of action to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries at the national, subregional and global levels;

(c) Improving linkages between the United Nations system and focal points in individual organizations and the relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and them, particularly those engaged in operational activities on the ground in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(d) Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of specific actions and initiatives aimed at establishing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries.

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Objective of the Organization: To enable small island developing States to attain sustainable development through the successful implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the successful review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased recognition and awareness of the special case of small island developing States and their vulnerabilities during the review process of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy at the national, regional and global levels	(a) (i) Increased number of declarations, resolutions and decisions adopted at the global and regional levels in favour of the small island developing States (ii) Increased number of advocacy activities that have a direct and positive impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, meetings, briefings and publications
(b) Enhanced international support to small island developing States in implementing the outcomes of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy to enable them to adequately adapt to climate change	(b) Increased number of development partners that publicly/officially pledge support for small island developing States programmes under the climate change long-term financing initiative
(c) Enhanced inter-agency collaboration and partnerships in support of the small island developing States	(c) Increased number of joint programmes and activities that have a direct and positive impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops and technical and financial assistance

Strategy

8.8 In order to achieve the foregoing objective, the strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

(a) Promoting awareness about the issues, priorities and the special case of small island developing States, including the challenges of climate change, through consistent advocacy at the global and regional levels;

(b) Advocating and mobilizing international support at the global level by identifying sources of financing and garnering donor support for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, including support for adaptation to climate change.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

General Assembly resolutions

55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
57/276	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
58/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
59/244	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
62/203	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
63/227	Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
64/213	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
65/280	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
65/286	Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
66/213	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/17	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2006/41	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2007/31	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2008/37	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2009/31	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2010/27	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2011/9	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Economic and Social Council decisions

2001/320	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

General Assembly resolutions

58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
61/212	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
62/204	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

63/2	Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
63/228	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
64/214	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
65/172	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
66/214	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

59/311	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
61/196	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
62/191	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

63/213	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
64/199	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
65/156	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
66/198	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States